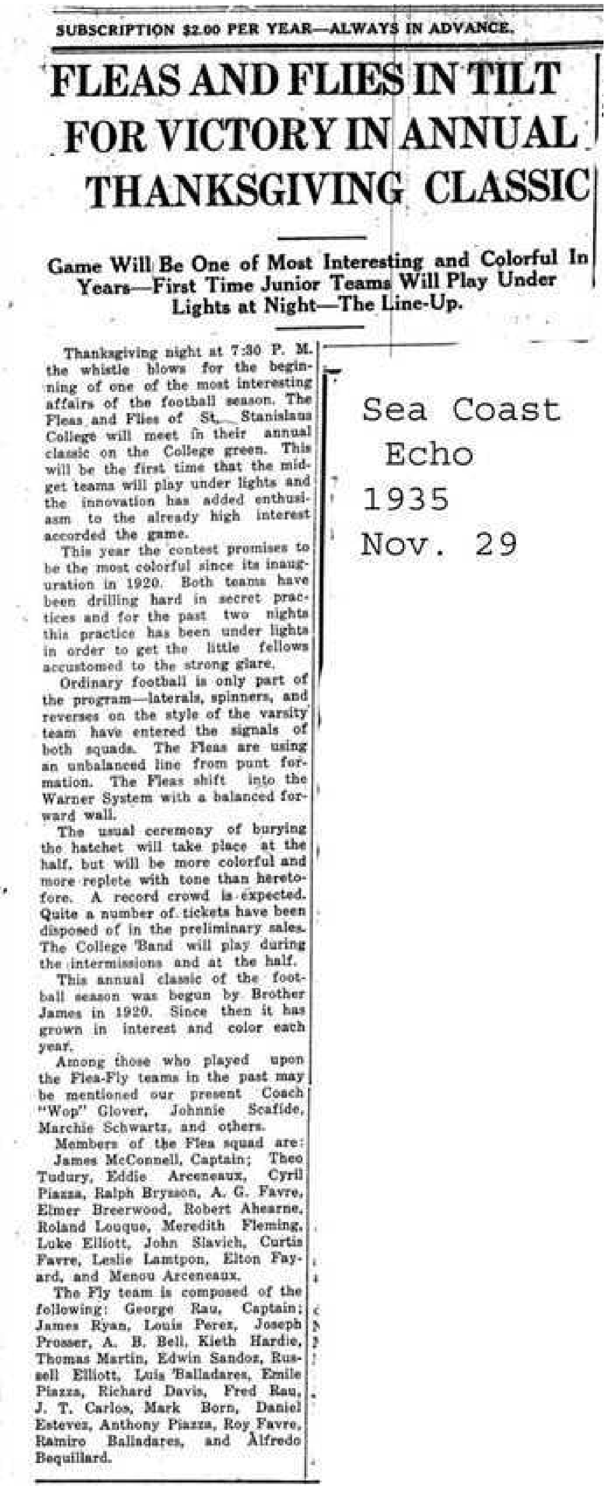
#31. Retrospective for December 2025
Flea-Fly Classic for the Christmas Tree Fund

The annual Flea-Fly Classic grew out of Br. Peter's junior yard league which in 1916 charged admission to its football finals to raise money for a Christmas Tree party to distribute toys children whose parents could not afford to buy them. In 1922 Br. James Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Winona Genin, wife of a local attorney Robert Genin, publicized the contest widely, and *The Sea Coast Echo* dubbed the game the Flea-Fly Classic. That first classic netted only $18.83, but it was destined to become an institution at SSC surrounded with quite a few traditions. One of them was for the young players to "bury the hatchet" after the game to symbolize an end to their heated rivalry.



SUBSCRIPTION $2.00 PER YEAR—ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

FLEAS AND FLIES IN TILT FOR VICTORY IN ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CLASSIC

Game Will Be One of Most Interesting and Colorful In Years—First Time Junior Teams Will Play Under Lights at Night—The Line-Up.

Thanksgiving night at 7:30 P. M. the whistle blows for the beginning of one of the most interesting affairs of the football season. The Fleas and Flies of St. Stanislaus College will meet in their annual classic on the College green. This will be the first time that the midget teams will play under lights and the innovation has added enthusiasm to the already high interest accorded the game.

This year the contest promises to be the most colorful since its inauguration in 1920. Both teams have been drilling hard in secret practices and for the past two nights this practice has been under lights in order to get the little fellows accustomed to the strong glare.

Ordinary football is only part of the program—laterals, spinners, and reverses on the style of the varsity team have entered the signals of both squads. The Fleas are using an unbalanced line from punt formation. The Fleas shift into the Warner System with a balanced forward wall.

The usual ceremony of burying the hatchet will take place at the half, but will be more colorful and more replete with tone than heretofore. A record crowd is expected. Quite a number of tickets have been disposed of in the preliminary sales. The College Band will play during the intermissions and at the half.

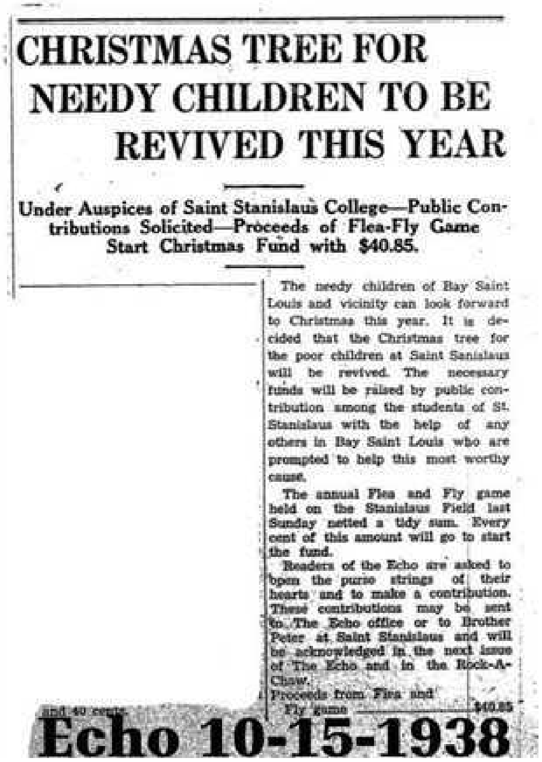
This annual classic of the football season was begun by Brother James in 1920. Since then it has grown in interest and color each year.

Among those who played upon the Flea-Fly teams in the past may be mentioned our present Coach "Wop" Glover, Johnnie Scafide, Marchie Schwartz, and others.

Members of the Flea squad are: James McConnell, Captain; Theo Tudury, Eddie Arceneaux, Cyril Piazza, Ralph Brysson, A. G. Favre, Elmer Breerwood, Robert Ahearne, Roland Louque, Meredith Fleming, Luke Elliott, John Slavich, Curtis Favre, Leslie Lamtpon, Elton Fayard, and Menou Arceneaux.

The Fly team is composed of the following: George Rau, Captain; James Ryan, Louis Perez, Joseph Prosser, A. B. Bell, Kieth Hardie, Thomas Martin, Edwin Sandoz, Russell Elliott, Luis Balladares, Emile Piazza, Richard Davis, Fred Rau, J. T. Carlos, Mark Born, Daniel Estevez, Anthony Piazza, Roy Favre, Ramiro Balladares, and Alfredo Bequillard.

Sea Coast Echo
1935
Nov. 29



CHRISTMAS TREE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN TO BE REVIVED THIS YEAR

Under Auspices of Saint Stanislaus College—Public Contributions Solicited—Proceeds of Flea-Fly Game Start Christmas Fund with $40.85.

The needy children of Bay Saint Louis and vicinity can look forward to Christmas this year. It is decided that the Christmas tree for the poor children at Saint Sanislaus will be revived. The necessary funds will be raised by public contribution among the students of St. Stanislaus with the help of any others in Bay Saint Louis who are prompted to help this most worthy cause.

The annual Flea and Fly game held on the Stanislaus Field last Sunday netted a tidy sum. Every cent of this amount will go to start the fund.

Readers of the Echo are asked to open the purse strings of their hearts and to make a contribution. These contributions may be sent to The Echo office or to Brother Peter at Saint Stanislaus and will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Echo and in the Rock-A-Chaw.

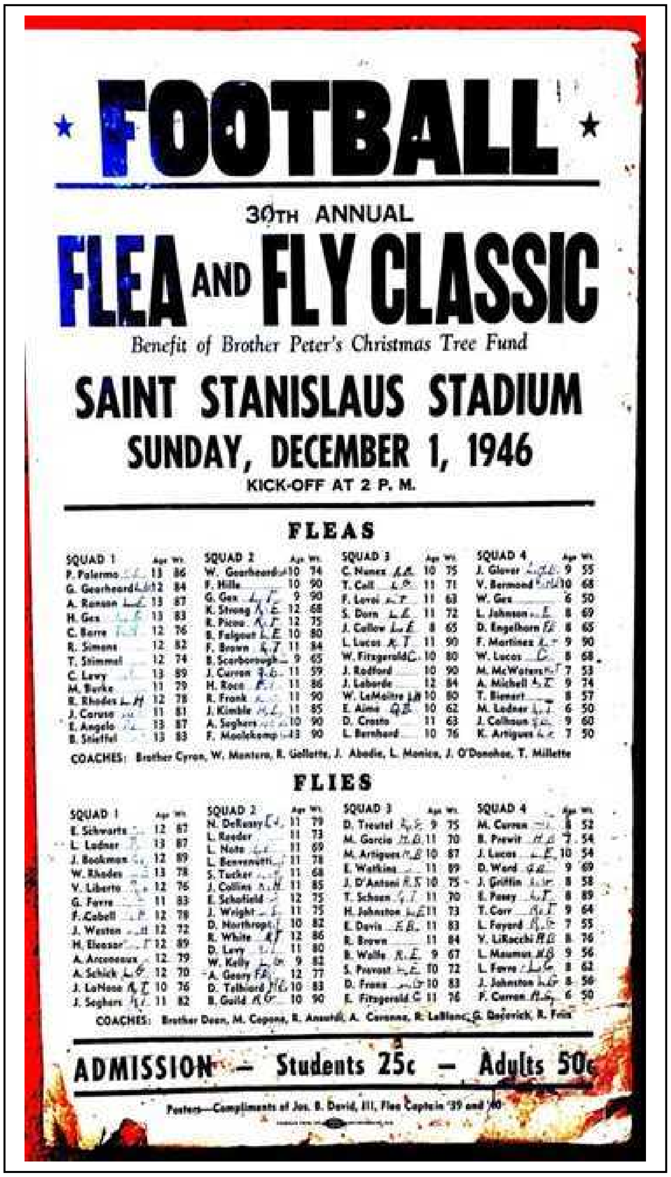
Proceeds from Flea and Fly game	$40.85

and 40 cents

Echo 10-15-1938

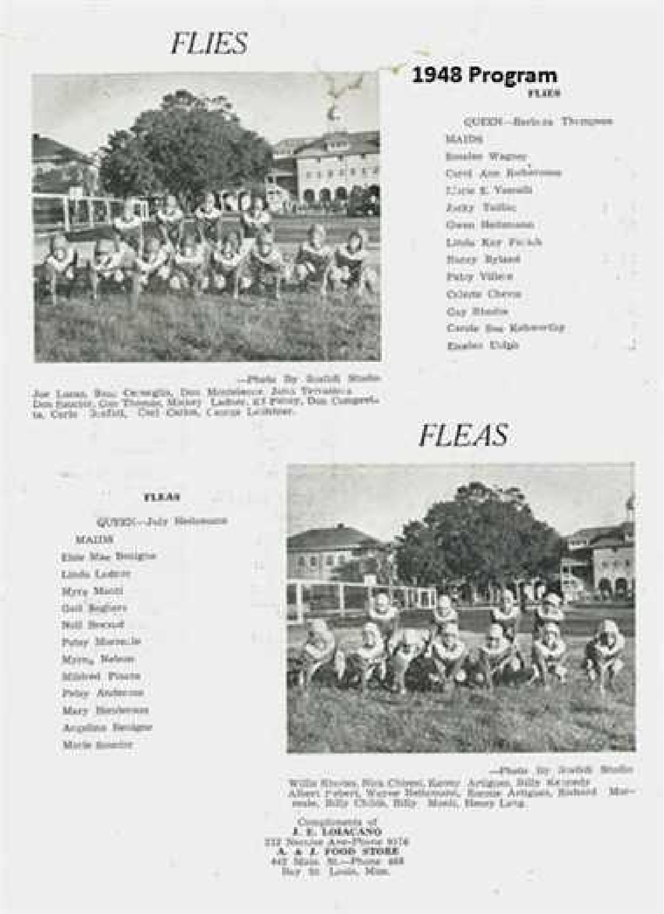
Coaches, usually Brothers, managed each team. For several weeks, the boys practiced for the classic in which 100 to 120 small football players, all fully equipped, swarmed up and down the gridiron with unbounded enthusiasm. Evenly matched teams in corresponding weight categories played each other for a set time.

During the 1940s, the Flea-Fly Classic became synonymous with Br. Leonard Levell, who for 14 years organized the games to raise money for Br. Peter's Christmas Tree Party for the poor children in town. He expanded the program from two teams of eleven small boys each, to Flea and Fly squads that consisted of four teams each with boys divided into four weight categories. Hundreds of young boys from SSC, its Free Day School, and St. Joseph's Academy took part in the annual Classic. He also increased the admission prices.


FOOTBALL
30TH ANNUAL
FLEA AND FLY CLASSIC
Benefit of Brother Peter's Christmas Tree Fund
SAINT STANISLAUS STADIUM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1946
KICK-OFF AT 2 P. M.
FLEAS
FLIES
ADMISSION — Students 25c — Adults 50c
Posters—Compliments of Jos. B. David, III, Flea Captain '39 and '40

A 12 x 16 inch cardboard poster advertising the 30th Annual Flea and Fly Classic of 1946 listed the names of more than 100 boy, their ages from 8 to 13 years and their weights from 50 to 90 pounds. They were divided by age and weight into eight teams, four squads each for the Fleas and the Flies. Admission for the game to be played at 2:00 pm on December 1 was 25 cents for students and 50 cents for adults—all proceeds going to Brother Peter's Christmas Tree Fund.

The Flea-Fly Classic became a highlight of the Bay St. Louis football season. It continued into the mid-60s with the 48th annual event in 1964 featuring a parade and a court. Many a SSC football great such as Coach Harry Glover, Johnnie Scafide, and Marchie Schwartz got his start in the Flea-Fly Classic, advancing through the ranks to the Tiny Rocks, the Pebbles, the Rockets, the junior varsity and finally to the varsity. An article in the *Hancock County Eagle* on November 11, 1965, announced practice for the 49th annual classic. Boys were told to assemble "immediately after the afternoon classes at Stanislaus Desert Field Hancock and Bookter Streets…The only requirement is that each boy provide his own uniform."



FLIES

1948 Program

FLIES

QUEEN—Barbara Thompson

MAIDS

Rosalee Wagner
Carol Ann Kellerman
Marie E. Yarrell
Judy Taillon
Gwen Hellemann
Linda Kay Frisch
Nancy Ryland
Patsy Villere
Celeste Cherry
Cay Blaize
Carole Sue Ketterridge
Rosalee Ulgo

—Photo By Scafidi Studio

Joe Lucas, Ross Cerneglia, Don Mondelonce, John Terranova, Don Saucier, Gus Thomas, Mickey Ladner, Ed Peney, Don Cumperella, Carlo Scafidi, Carl Carlos, George Leichtner.

FLEAS

FLEAS

QUEEN—Judy Hellemann

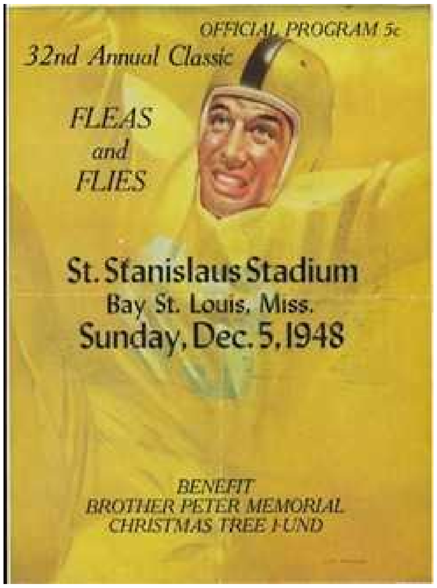
MAIDS

Elsie Mae Benigno
Linda Ladner
Myra Mauti
Gail Bagliero
Nell Breaud
Patsy Moreale
Myrna Nelson
Mildred Pisano
Patsy Anderson
Mary Henderson
Angelina Benigno
Marie Sciortino

—Photo By Scafidi Studio

Willie Rhodes, Nick Chiesci, Kenny Artigues, Billy Kennedy, Albert Fabert, Wayne Hellemann, Ronnie Artigues, Richard Moreale, Billy Childs, Billy Mauti, Henry Long.

Compliments of
J. E. LOBACANO
222 Necaise Ave—Phone 9174
A. & J. FOOD STORE
442 Main St.—Phone 488
Bay St. Louis, Miss.



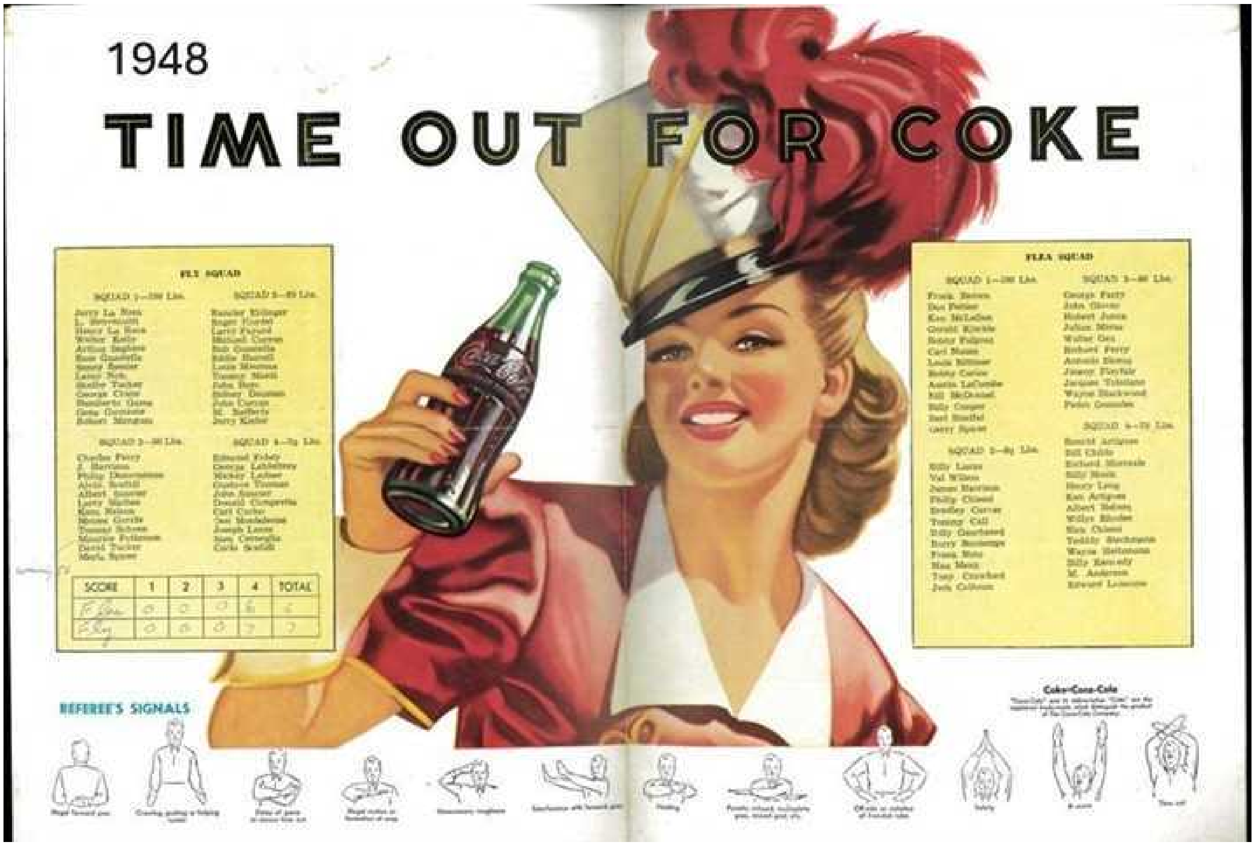
OFFICIAL PROGRAM 5c

32nd Annual Classic

FLEAS
and
FLIES

St. Stanislaus Stadium
Bay St. Louis, Miss.
Sunday, Dec. 5, 1948

BENEFIT
BROTHER PETER MEMORIAL
CHRISTMAS TREE FUND



1948

TIME OUT FOR COKE

FLY SQUAD

SQUAD 1—100 Lbs.

Jerry La Rosa
L. Bienvenu
Henry La Rosa
Walter Kelly
Arthur Saghini
Ross Cuevas
Sonny Roesler
Lionel Nick
Skellie Tucker
George Crane
Humberto Garza
Gene Dominic
Robert Monahan

SQUAD 2—89 Lbs.

Rancier Kilinger
Roger Fortel
Larry Farvel
Michael Curran
Bob Cuevas
Eddie Harrell
Louis Mestrae
Thomas Mauti
John Dorr
Sidney Dauman
John Curran
M. Sofferis
Jerry Kiefer

SQUAD 3—80 Lbs.

Charles Perry
J. Harrison
Philip Dunsmore
Alvin Scafidi
Albert Saucier
Larry Mathes
Kenn Nelson
Monroe Gorrie
Thomas Schone
Maurice Fohtman
David Tucker
Mark Spear

SQUAD 4—70 Lbs.

Edmund Fahey
George Lathelaney
Mickey Ladner
Gustave Thomas
John Saucier
Donald Cumperella
Carl Carlos
Dan Mondelonce
Joseph Lucas
Ross Cerneglia
Carlo Scafidi

SCORE	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Flea	0	0	0	6	6
Fly	0	0	0	7	7

FLEA SQUAD

SQUAD 1—100 Lbs.

Frank Benvo
Don Peters
Ken McLellan
Gerald Kimble
Bobby Folgrod
Carl Massa
Louis Hillmer
Bobby Carlos
Austin LaCombe
Bill McDonald
Billy Cooper
Earl Stoeffel
Gerry Spann

SQUAD 2—89 Lbs.

Billy Lucas
Val Wilson
James Harrison
Philip Chiesci
Bradley Carver
Tommy Call
Billy Overland
Barry Bordenage
Frank Roth
Max Mauti
Tony Crawford
Jack Colbom

SQUAD 3—80 Lbs.

George Farry
John Glover
Robert Johns
Julian Morse
Walter Cox
Richard Perry
Antonio Eleoro
Jimmy Forsyth
Jacques Tolellano
Wayne Blackwood
Pedro Gonzalez

SQUAD 4—70 Lbs.

Ronald Artigues
Bill Childs
Richard Moreale
Billy Mauti
Henry Long
Ken Artigues
Albert Nelson
Willie Rhodes
Nick Chiesci
Teddy Stechmann
Wayne Hellemann
Billy Kennedy
M. Anderson
Edward Lossome

REFEREE'S SIGNALS

Coke=Coca-Cola

Pictured are Brothers Kenneth, Dean, Arthur, Sidney and Rian who have given their time to coaching duties in preparation for the Flea-Fly Classic. Missing from picture is Brother Ronan. Brothers in the true sense of the word, they have interested themselves without reservation in the welfare of our little gridsters.

Fleas - Flies Clash In Thirty - Third Contest; Annual Charity Tilt Excites Great Interest Among Fans Throughout Entire Southland

The contest that has no equal in Bantam Team History throughout the Southland—the battle of the Fleas and Flies—comes to us to-day with all the spectacular show accompanying it.

This game marks the Thirty-Third meeting between the squads—a game with as interesting a show as that seen on many a grid-iron this week-end throughout the Nation between traditional rivals. Thrills there will be in abundance; mistakes galore; and plays executed which never before have been attempted. It is a sure bet that a coach or two will be as much surprised from their seats on the bench as will be the spectators in the stands. Such is the Flea-Fly Clash!

Thanks

It has been the gracious custom of Mr. Joseph R. David III of New Orleans to supply annually the tickets and posters for the Flea-Fly classic. We take this occasion to show him that we appreciate this generous gesture and that he will continue to promote this worthy cause. It is our assurance that he experiences the tremendous good he has wrought.

THE ROCK-A-CHAW

VOL. XVIII — NO. 4 ST. STANISLAUS, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI NOVEMBER 27, 1949

OFFICIALS NAMED FOR GRID CONTEST

The officials for this all important encounter have been carefully selected from an All-American panel. It was not an easy task to secure those who would render unbiased decisions. This annual affair has reached such tremendous proportions that the greater majority of people within a fifty mile radius have taken upon themselves to carry the banners of either the Fleas or their arch-enemies, the Flies.

But, in spite of these obstacles, and after a strenuous search, these capable officials have been appointed. Heading the list is our own coach Richard Thames who has been signed up as head referee. Coach Michael Powers will act as umpire. Local boy, Eddie Blaize, will take over as head linesman. Brother Leonard will be the official time keeper as he has so often been in the past. The yard stick holders [illegible] by former participants of this classic, namely Lucien Gex, Gary Gilmore and Joseph Scafidi.

Mathematicians Only Could Solve This One

If you are a mathematician, perhaps you can figure this one out. How many quarters has a whole? The writer will not offer this as an issue for debate; but will simply refer you to the chaps running the show who insist that this game has six quarters! Well, there can be only one possible way of looking at it. This little contest must be a GAME AND A HALF!

Committees Drafted By Brother Leonard

An affair of this sort—the Bantam Grid Game cannot be presented without preparations of gigantic proportions and the need for volunteers to assist in making this undertaking a success is paramount.

Committees have been organized to expedite procedure and boys to do the job have been "drafted" by Brother Leonard, affable director of events.

Committees and members are here named:

POSTER COMMITTEE — Alex Mansur, Ruben Mansur; POOL COMMITTEE—Roy Gulotta, Ray Ansardi; FIELD COMMITTEE—Vincent Liberto, Norman Carnovale; BUTTON COMMITTEE—Jerry LaNasa, Wallace Papadopolo, James Becnel, Philip Chiesei, Peter Latino, James Cassidy, John Matranga, Joseph Bruiglio, Jimmy Grace, Louis Doucet, Ernest Posey, Joseph Smith, and Antonio Elosua.

Warriors In To-Day's Battle Make Known Future Ambitions

What can be said about the future of these little warriors who are going to show their wares to the general public this afternoon before what is always a very appreciative audience?

No matter what fans may think, these lads ranging from six years to twelve, do have very definite ideas as to what they intend to do in later life.

True, many of them intend to keep up their football prowess for the REST OF THEIR LIVES; Others have expressed their desire of going to College. Such names as Tulane, Notre Dame, Michigan, University of Mexico, West Point, Ole Miss., Minnesota, Texas A & M, Wisconsin, Loyola, Holy Cross, and Oregon are mentioned with regularity as the Universities to which they want to "matriculate." "Big" names, it seems, have predominance. One wonders if football successes have to any extent warranted such choices.

As for ambitions in life, at least ten have mentioned the Priesthood; five, the Brotherhood. Cowboys, aviators, soldiers, scientists, doctors, dentists, F. B. I. men, fishermen, druggists, bankers, wrestlers, office workers, wholesale liquor dealers—all are listed in abundance.

Unusual occupations were also to be found. William Martin wants to be a stevedore Richard Daigle a prize-fighter; Edmund Blaize, a bull-dozer driver. For Timmy Shafer to manage his selections he would have to be gifted with tri-location for he wants to play football for Tulane, baseball for the Pelicans, and basketball for Notre Dame. Others want to be great stars—no matter the category—just let it rest there.

INTEREST AT ALL TIME HIGH FOR GRID TILT

Interest is at an all time high for the Flea-Fly game. Supporters for both sides are very enthusiastic. It is not uncommon to hear, "Down with the Flies, or yes, Fleas." Cheerleaders are Jerry Martin, Sylvia Ladner, and Walter Powell for the Fleas. The Flies have Louise Piazza, Jo Ann Bontemps, and Ronald Gross leading their followers at the game. Give the cheerleaders your whole-hearted support.

PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UPS FOR TODAY

SQUAD I

Flies	Pos.	Fleas
Sidney Doussan	LE	Bernard Wolfe
Richard Daigle	LT	Louis Doucet
Alvin Scafidi	LG	Billy Lucas
Eddie Harrell	C	Donald Strong
William Cassidy	RG	Rayburn Favre
Albert Saucier	RT	Antonio Elosua
Larry Mathes	RE	Bobby Ladner
Wm. Martin	QB	Jack Calhoun
W. Santa Cruz	FB	Donald Rowan
W. Papadopolo	RH	Philip Chiesei
Leo Drenet	LH	Julian Marse

SQUAD II

Flies	Pos.	Fleas
George Perry	LE	Thomas Kidd
George Cassard	LT	Mike Demoran
Don Monteleone	LG	Timmy Schafer
Thomas Karl	C	Speedy Rhodes
John Sebastian	RG	M. Shettlemore
John Demoran	RT	Nick Chiesei
Joe Lucas	RE	Patrick Glover
Louis Maumus	QB	John Glover
Billy Prewitt	FB	Walter Gex
R. Guastella	RH	Billy Rhodes
John Lewis	LH	K. Artigues

SQUAD III

Fleas	Pos.	Flies
Lamar Ladner	LE	Terry Ladner
Curtis Thomas	LT	Carlo Scafidi
Henry Lang	LG	Pat Curran
Billy Kennedy	C	Donald Green
Lloyd Cuevas	RG	D. Compretta
Alcine Johnson	RT	John Saurier
R. Morreale	RE	Edmond Blaize
Jimmy Raymond	Q	Leroy Necaise
Jimmy Cholna	LH	Herman Jacobi
R. Strong	RH	Gary Karl
Ronald Artigues	FB	Joe E. Lassacano

FLEA-FLY PARADE

The Annual Flea-Fly parade which has become an institution here follows the usual route—down Main Street to Necaise Avenue and thence to the stadium escorted by the Bay High and St. Stanislaus Bands. Every squadman participates as a conditioner for the grid battle to follow.

Captain Named

Before the opening whistle the captain, of the day is named after which he and his follow-up will receive awards for their generous contribution, via the selling of tickets—the only way by which the captain and mate are chosen.

Charity Tilt

Being a charity tilt, it has been the custom over the years to carry on this "big classic" of the year without the usual splash of awards seen in other bowl games. The Christmas Tree must be provided for, and the tots participating are the ones responsible for the many happy Christmases experienced by many less fortunate children here in Bay Saint Louis.

KICK-OFF FOR ANNUAL GAME SET FOR 2 P. M.

Kick-off for the annual classic will take place promptly at 2:00 p. m. No half-time show is on the program because the game itself is to last a full 90 minutes of actual playing time. Adhering to custom, Brother coaches will see to it that each one of the 125 squadmen will see considerable action.

Appreciation

Thanks to A. G. Favre, our Printer and to Albert Landry, our engraver who worked so hard to make the deadline for our Flea-Fly Edition. Another testimonial of the interest fans have in the Flea-Fly Game.

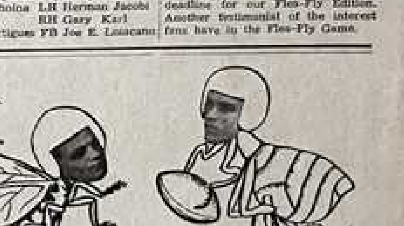
Fans Take Hesitant Delight In Guessing Score Of Flea-Fly Game

Even the Flea-Fly Contest is not without taint of the questionable art of score guessing; and fans take hesitant delight in making decisions about the outcome, knowing that anything can happen in this game and usually does.

This "pool" differs somewhat from those which are running rampant throughout the country these days. Bettors know that their guesses is not a sure thing; and, besides, the profit for the picker de-luxe is not a financial investment. They have become educated to the fact that this is not a matter of personal benefit and that they are really making a donation, the proceeds of which go to the general "pot" for the Brother Peter Christmas Tree Fund.

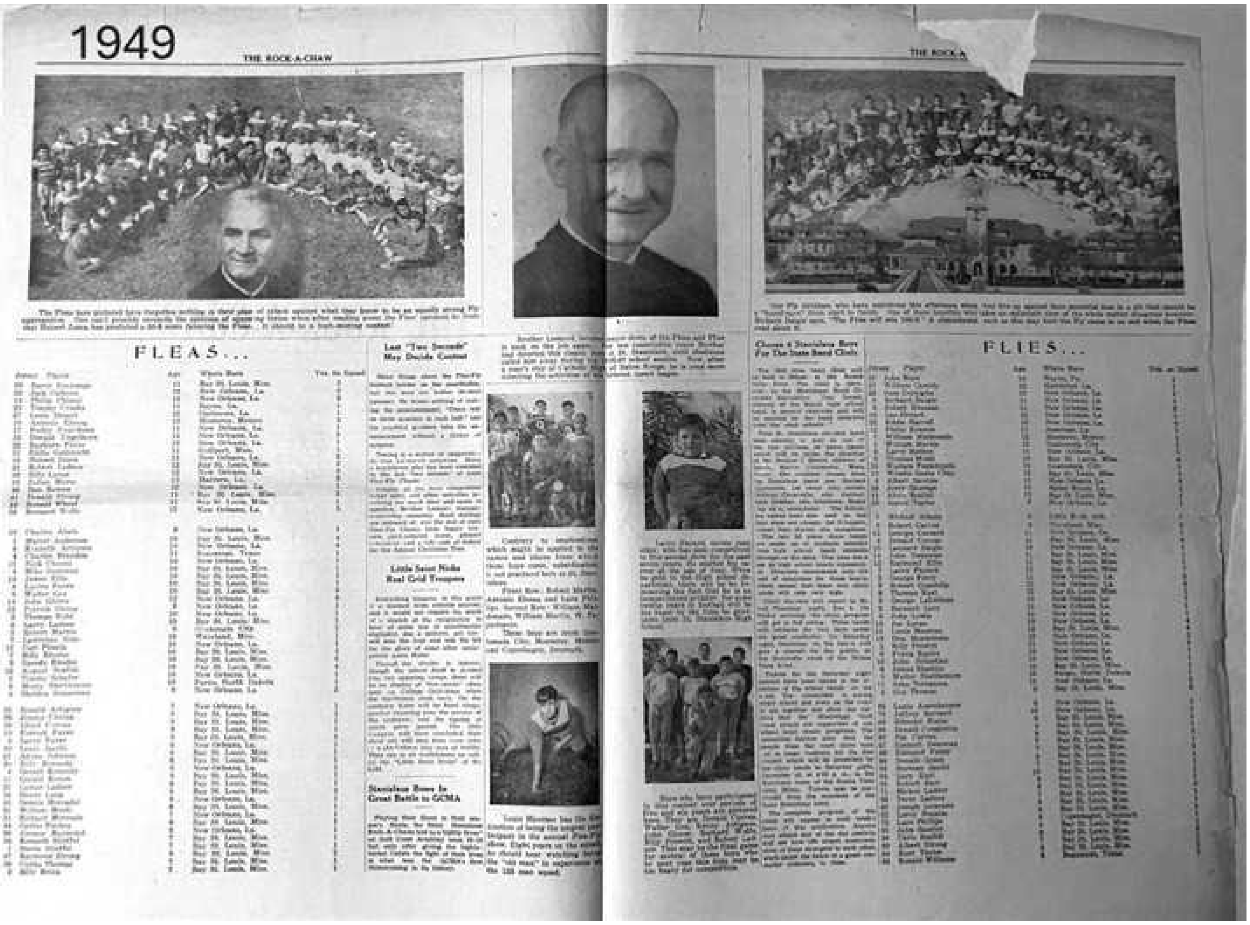
In charge of the "pool" this year are two former players in this game—Roy Gulotta and Ray Ansardi. Returns should be surprisingly satisfactory with these two go-getters on the fans' trail.

Noteworthy of mention is that this little activity was the brain-child of Walter Cleveland, a Flea in 1940. His knowledge of psychology was sufficient to make him realize that the average person is inclined to bet just for the sake of betting; and rightly "figured" that such inclination would pay off dividends financially for this great cause of helping the needy come Christmas time.



The Flea-Fly Contest always brings to the fore memories of the past. Jimmy Holmes and Paul Palermo, though now members of the Rock-A-Chaw Varsity, do not have to revert far back to recall when they also were members of the Flea-Fly aggregations. Jimmy Holmes was the Captain of the Flies and also participated in the Birmingham Toy Bowl in 1946. Paul Palermo also saw action in the same contest.

1949



THE ROCK-A-CHAW

FLEAS . . .

Last "Two Seconds" May Decide Contest

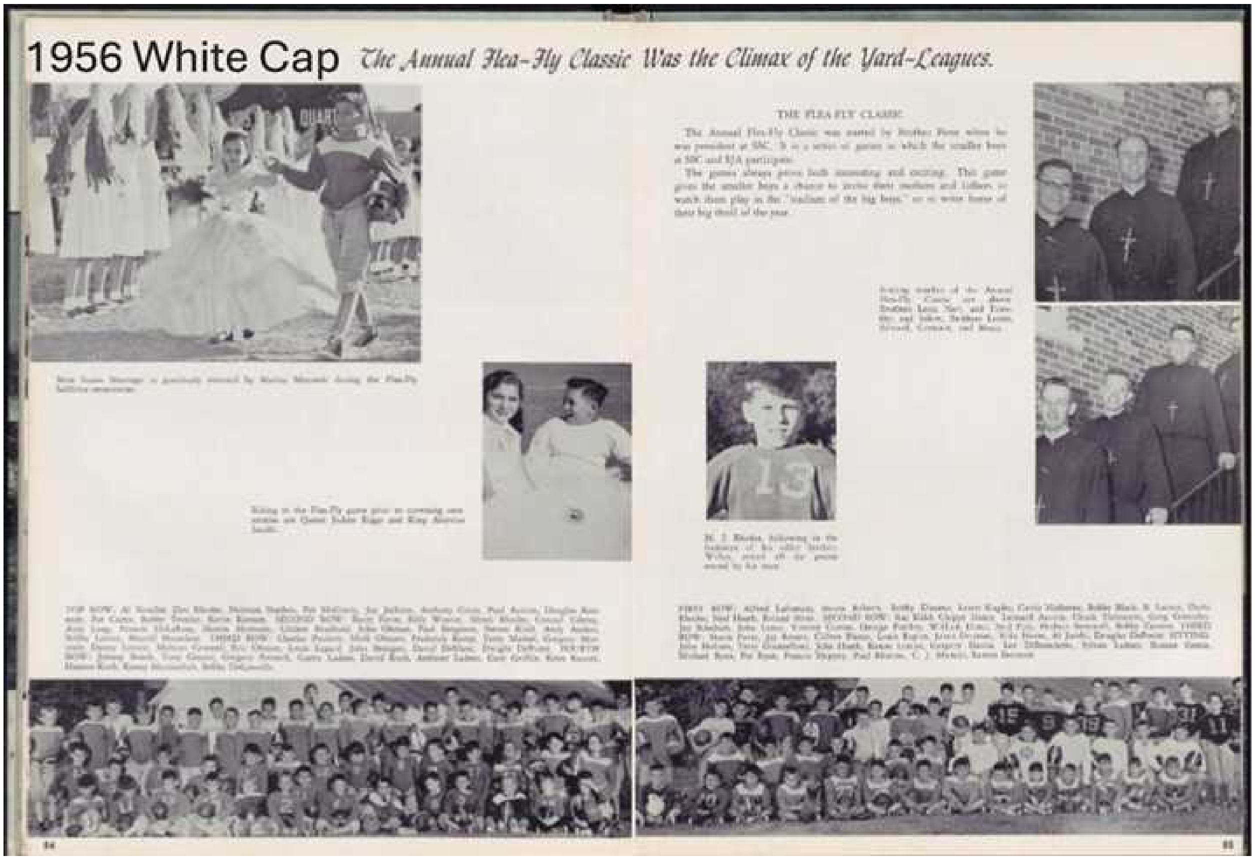
Little Saint Nicks Real Grid Troupers

Stanislaus Bows in Great Battle to GCMA

Choose 4 Stanislaus Boys For The State Band Clinic

FLIES . . .

1956 White Cap



The Annual Flea-Fly Classic Was the Climax of the Yard-Leagues.

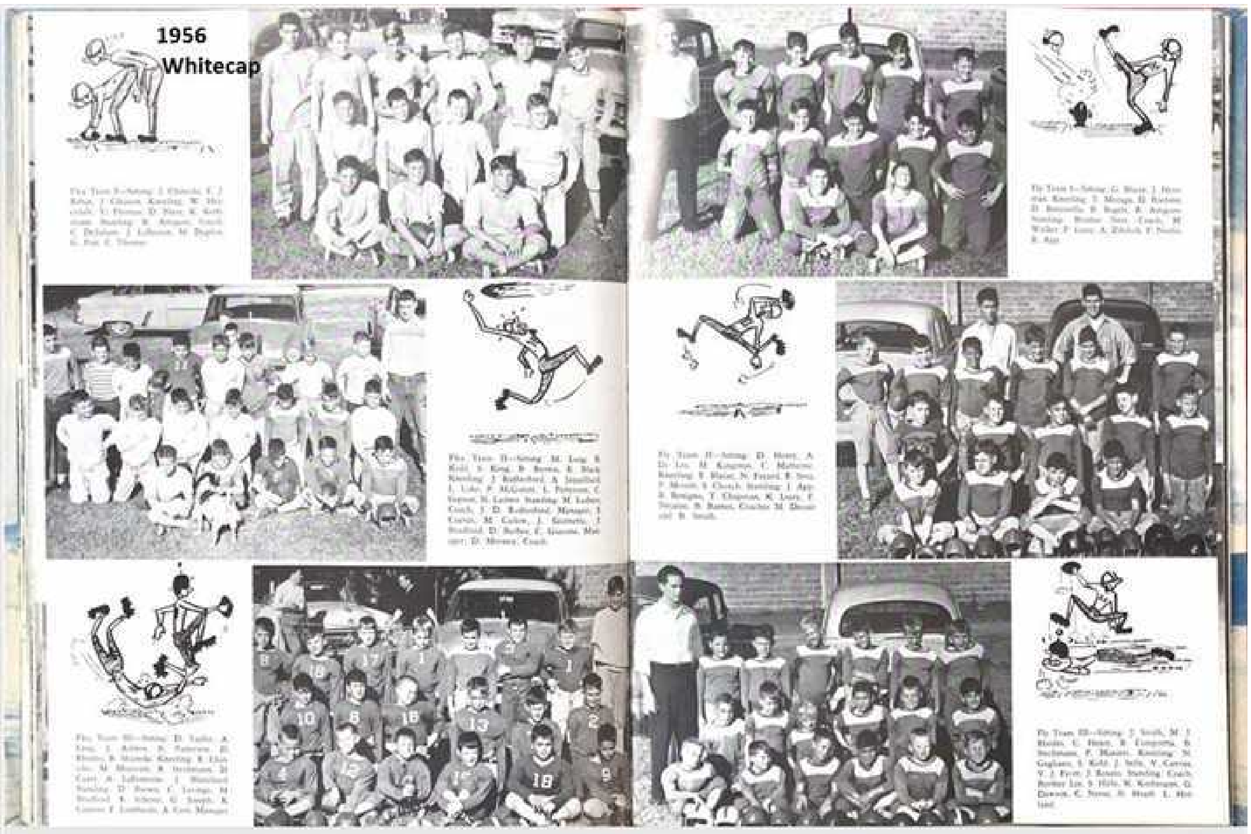
THE FLEA-FLY CLASSIC

The Annual Flea-Fly Classic was started by Brother Peter when he was president at SSC. It is a series of games in which the smaller boys at SSC and SJA participate.

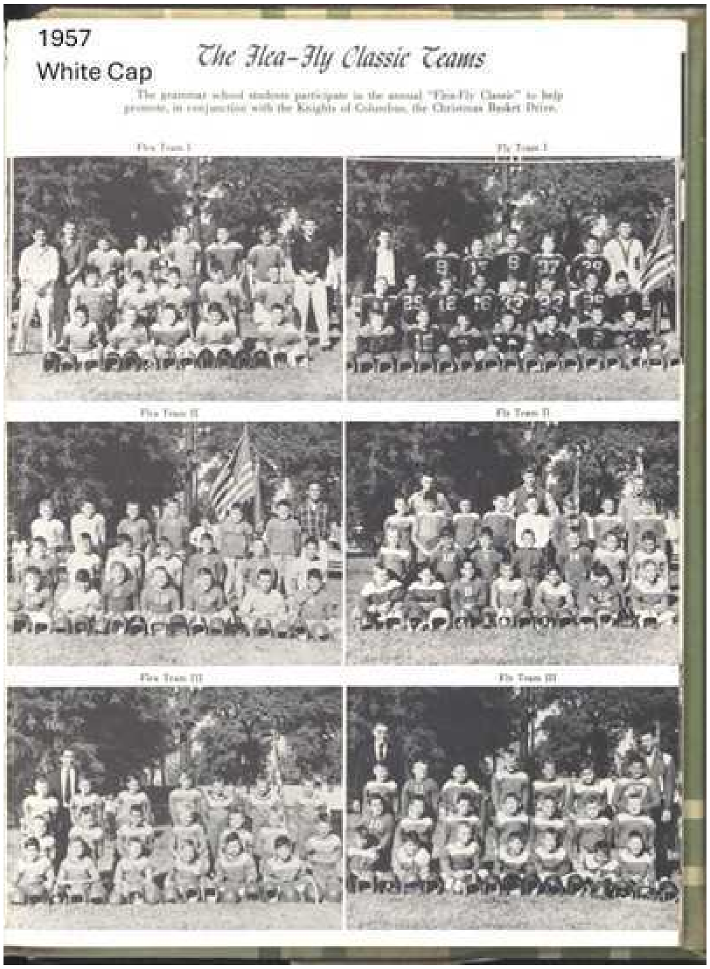
The games always prove both interesting and exciting. This game gives the smaller boys a chance to invite their mothers and fathers to watch them play in the "stadium of the big boys" or to write home of their big thrill of the year.

84

85



1956
Whitecap



1957
White Cap

The Flea-Fly Classic Teams

The grammar school students participate in the annual "Flea-Fly Classic" to help promote, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, the Christmas Basket Drive.

Flea Team I

Fly Team I

Flea Team II

Fly Team II

Flea Team III

Fly Team III